Transporting Infectious Substances by Ground

When these materials are transported, Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations may apply and are extremely complex in nature. Laboratory personnel must properly package, transport, and handle any Infectious substances which are used in their research. Labeling using the universal biohazard symbol is also required for any infectious biological materials in order to prevent accidental exposure to unsuspecting personnel who may be exposed to the biological material (e.g., couriers, administrative staff, and janitors).

Transport (hand-carry) between University labs or buildings through public areas

Infectious substances must be transported or moved between laboratories in way as to prevent spills and accidental exposure or release including:

- Placing material in a primary (specimen) container that is leak-proof and secured with a tight-fitting cap, parafilm, or lab tape.
- Placing absorbent material (diapers, absorbent towels, pads) around the primary containers for transport of liquids.
- Placing the primary containers in a secondary transport container that is also sealed and labeled with a biohazard symbol. These materials may be moved on a cart or other device between rooms or buildings.
- Wearing PPE that is appropriate for movement through public areas (e.g., lab coat and/or single-glove technique where appropriate--it is not advisable to wear gloves when using public elevators, however, a single-glove technique may be employed when moving through laboratory floors).

Further information

Contact the Biosafety Officer, Office of Laboratory Safety:

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